



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association
2017 Spring Meeting
Marriot Hotel – St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Saturday April 1st, 2017

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM by Eric Olson, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul

MHOA Board Members

President-Eric Olson Present
North Vice President-Tod Plackner Present
South Vice President-Dave Kemp Present
Secretary-Brian Thul Present
Treasurer-Kurt Hyster Present
District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm Present
District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim Present
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski Present
District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl Present
District 5 Supervisor-Mike Mooney Present
District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp Present
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Absent (MN 18 Festival)
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Present
District 10 Supervisor-Mike Mannin and Jon Sass Present
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich Present
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present
District 15 Supervisor-John Rice Present
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri Present
WHAM Supervisor-Krissy Morrison Present
Adult Hockey Association Supervisor (AHA) - Brent Hansen Present
MHOA Past President-Skip Trumble Present
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro Present

MHOA Appointed Positions

MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (North)-Jeff Walters Absent
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (South)-Skip Trumble Present
USA Hockey, MN District, Prospects Development Coordinator-Skip Trumble Present
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (North)-Tod Plackner Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (South)-Ryan Swafford Present
MHOA Seminar Coordinator-Mark Verplaetse Present
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse Present
Data Base Coordinator-Ryan Swafford Present

Guests: Jon Sass District 10, Dave Weisjahn MHOA Camp Director, and Emil Makinen District 12 Official

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1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Mooney and seconded by Kemp. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

2. Reports

Secretary-Brian Thul

- The minutes from the fall meeting were distributed and corrections were provided. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Evaluation- Bruce Carlson

We did not do enough evaluations this year! Three Hundred and Fifty One evaluations were completed for the entire state this season, which is down from previous years. Supervisors expressed some concerns with technical problems with the evaluation system. Hard copies are still an option if supervisors would prefer to use the old hard copies. There are thirty three total evaluators, fourteen evaluators that did more than ten evaluations. There seems to be a shortage of evaluators and it is inconsistent whether they are being paid to evaluate games throughout the state. The shortage of officials in particular areas also reduces the capacity to evaluate games. There is talk at the national level of revamping the system to allow for easier access. Supervisors reported that many informal evaluations are happening that do not go into the system.

Seminars- Mark Verplaetse, Seminar Coordinator

Seminars: In Minnesota, we conducted 69 seminars with 2133 attendees. The number of seminars is in fewer than the number of seminars conducted last year (7 less than last year). I expect that we will continue this many plus or minus seminars in the following year due to the numbers of officials and how geographically dispersed the Minnesota District is. We conducted a late seminar in December with 22 attendees, fewer than we expected. I don't expect to make a habit of the late season seminars, but will be open to having one should the need arise. Having said that, I think it would be a good idea to contact our local associations and have them inform their 'in-house' officials of the registration requirements and seminar times. This may avoid us having to schedule a late seminar at the last minute.

On-Line Seminars: This is the third year using the online portion of the seminar. Generally, the online seminars were much better received by the officiating community, but many officials still feel that it is a waste of their time. The online seminars are here to stay, and we can expect continued improvements.

Another challenge is making sure that every official completes the on-line portion of the seminar. This is very difficult to regulate since it is done on an individual basis. Some numbers:

2345 registered officials in Minnesota in 2016-2017. Of these, 389 did not complete all of the registration requirements. (303 Lev 1, 52 Lev2, 32 Lev 3, 2 Lev 4). So, we had 1956 completely registered officials. The biggest reason for the incompleteness was not finishing the online seminar. 336 did not complete the online portion. (275 Lev 1, 38 Lev 2, 20 Lev 3, 2 Lev 4). 212 registered as an official, but did not attend a seminar. Some numbers:

Level 1 – 982 registered officials (73 fewer than last year), 275 did not complete the online seminar, 191 of these failed to complete their open book test. 303 did not complete all of the registration requirements. 679 completed Level 1's this season 69% completion rate. This is the same as last year, but not good enough.

Level 2 – 410 registered officials, 372 completed online seminar, 38 did not complete the online seminar, 358 completed all registration requirements, 52 did not. 87% completion rate.

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Level 3 – 877 registered officials, 857 completed online seminar, 20 did not complete the online seminar, and 845 completed all registration requirements. 96% completion rate. Level 3 closed book test enjoyed a 91% pass rate this year. This is outstanding. I think the test was easier to understand this year.

Level 4 – 68 registered officials, 68 completed the online seminar, 0 did not complete the online seminar 100% completion rate, however only 36 completed and passed all Level 4 requirements

It is alarming that 31% of the registered level 1 officials did not complete the online portion. I know that we stressed this in our seminars, but perhaps we did not stress this enough. I feel that because 303 level 1 officials did not complete the registration requirements, will result in few returnees for next year. I believe that recruitment and retention is on our agenda.

Out of 2345 registered officials, we effectively had 1956 complete the registration requirements or 83%.

Open book testing: It was pretty alarming to see such a dismal pass rate on the open book test. While the open book test is designed to make the referee actually read the rule book, this year was extremely difficult and appears to be designed to trick the reader. This feedback had gotten back to USA Hockey for future consideration. For instance, out of 877 L3 officials, 511 failed the open book test the first time around. That is a 42% pass rate on an OPEN BOOK test for Level 3 officials. We have a lot of knowledgeable officials that just go through the test without reading the rule book and they should be able to do a LOT better than this. Even so, many of the answers were very difficult to locate.

2017 seminars: Please lock down your seminar requirements, dates and times, as soon as possible and provide them to me. All seminars must be entered into the USA Hockey system prior to August 1. I'll enter them as soon as I am allowed. I'll prepare seminar materials over the next few months and hope to have ready by our fall meeting. This is a rule change year, so we will have some changes to the presentations.

We will be conducting a Level 1 seminar in conjunction with the Minnesota Wild and Minnesota Hockey on September 30 at the Xcel Energy Center. We are expecting 100+ attendees. Attendees will receive lunch and tickets the game that night. We are working on a Q&A with the officials for that game too. Many details are still being worked out. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Verplaetse

Treasurer-Kurt Hyster

State Tournament Expenses: Hotels go to Kurt Hyster and mileage and per diem got to Steve Tatro.

Kurt distributed the financial report to the board.

Kurt distributed a thank you card from the Kuhl family for flowers and card at Scott's mother's funeral.

501 C-3 update, both the Federal and State are up to date.

Motion to accept Treasurers Report by Kavanaugh and seconded by Thorsheim.

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State Tournament Reports:

- **Junior Gold A, B and 16U, Braemar Arena - Dave Kemp**

Junior Gold A, B and 16U tournament was held at Braemar Arena in Edina. The district hosted the girls banquet Wednesday night at Double Tree (old Radisson South) with the boys banquet at the Medina Ballroom.

The total number of officials used was 42 with 14 from district 6. We also had to fill 55 goal-judging spots, which were covered by the referee's association.

Overall the games were good and the crews did a great job. It was nice to see some younger officials representing their district. We really only had one incident and that was in the stands between two parents from the same team. The police were called and a breathalyzer test was administered. The district hired private security, which helped eliminate any potential problems. The following is the listing of assigned games for Sunday:

JGA

Consolation - District 2 (Stillwater vs. White Bear Lake), Third Place - District 6 (Blaine vs. Wayzata), Championship – District 8 (Edina vs. Minnetonka)

JGB

Consolation – District 10 (St. Thomas vs. Minnetonka), Third Place – District 11 (Edgecombe vs. Wayzata), Championship – District 5 (Elk River vs. Moorhead)

16U

Consolation – District 6 (Minnetonka vs. Eden Prairie), Third Place – District 6 (Lakeville vs. Prior Lake), Championship – District 3 (Stillwater vs. Minnetonka)

- **15UA and 19UB, Paul Moen**

Again, I have explained my reason for not being able to attend this year's Spring meeting. I would like to file my report on the State Tournament District 8 held this past season.

District 8 has one B level tournament next season, then we are done for a year, nice. I fully understand Steve and Eric's position of trying to attend all State Tournaments. Even with Steve under the weather. I unfortunately had just got over what he had. But, it is still hard trying to attend all the games over a three day period.

I'd like to thank Dennis Alm, he came after work Friday and stayed with me the rest of the tournament. He had some pretty good suggestions to some of the officials, two old guys hanging around worked pretty good. The field of teams at the 15UA level was great. The 19UB's could be held at different time or place, but that will never happen. Playing all the games on one rink was a little slow. I was told MN Hockey does not want to use two separate rinks.

The officials were very well qualified for this level. Most maybe over qualified. I had six (6) WCHA officials working. All were outstanding. One of the linesmen from D2, I video'd and sent a copy to Greg Shepherd and asked to have her looked at. She was outstanding. I had 2-3 crews that only worked two games due to the shortage of 19UB teams and I made it clear that none of the three crews assigned to the Tournament would be sent home on Sunday. Thank you District 2 and District 9 for your help. I would imagine, there will be some discussion on the way I ran the tournament. I spoke with each crew individually and had them talk to each other. I take full

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responsibility for my actions, but the tournament was outstanding with good officiating. I do suggest we understand our assigning of officials for STATE TOURNAMENTS. They are to be your best officials and have worked the 3 man system. One crew spoke with me and they had never worked together all season, nor the 3 man system. I really thought D8 was the last district to go to 3 men in the Bantam and 15U levels. South St Paul Youth Program did an outstanding job with the banquet (355 attending) one night and 88 the next for the 19UB.

Paul Moen

Supervisor of Officials, District 8.

- **Bantam AA & A: Scott Kuhl and Ryan Swafford**

The tournament went great. The venue was awesome, anyone who hasn't been to the new arena in Marshall should check it out. John Korsmo (Fairmont) assisted admirably in a fill in role in the absence of Scott Kuhl. Thanks to all of the Supervisors for sending such great crews.

Several of the games were close to include a 6 OT and 4 OT game. Several positive comments were given about the quality and professionalism of the officiating staff.

White Bear Lake won the BAA and Edina won the BA titles.

Respectfully,

Ryan E. Swafford

[D9 Supervisor of Officials](#) | [MHOA South Mentor](#)

- **Bantam B and PeeWee B: Skip Trumble**

Overall it was a good weekend, I was very appreciative for the assistance of Tod Plackner and Emil Makinen for their help supervising.

PeeWee B:

Crews from District 6, 15 & 16. The only issue we had was Saturday Scheduling because the PeeWees played all four games in the morning it was necessary to have one crew work back to back games in the consolation bracket. The District 15 did those games were solid in both games. Sunday game assignments District 15 did the consolation game, District 6 the 3rd place game and District 16 did the championship.

Bantam B:

Crews from District 2, 6 & 8. This level had the same issue with back to back games on the Saturday because of scheduling, the District 8 Crew did those game and was solid in both. We also had an issue with a team in the semi-finals that thought the officials were favoring their opponent, it led to some tense moments and some poor behavior by the head coach and many of their fans. The team manager did confront the tournament director and Minnesota hockey with their concerns but they never came to be directly. Consolation final was done by the District 2 crew, District 8 did the 3rd place game and District 6 did the championship.

From Dave Kemp (District 6 Supervisor) I would like to thank Mike Trumble for his assistance with supervising the Junior Gold Tournament. Also, Skip did a stellar job overseeing the Bantam B/Pee Wee B tournament at Prior Lake with help from the 218ers.

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- **Peewee AA/A: Mike Mannin (District 10)**

Tournament at Fogerty

Thanks to the crews from D-11, and D-12 for working the PWAA Tournament, and crews from D-9, and D-16 working the PWA Tournament.

- **12UA Nick Biondich**

D11 hosted the 12UA state tournament in Cloquet. I was unable to attend the Friday games and Chris Kavanaugh came down from D12 to supervise on Friday. I would also like to thank Jeremy Klobuchar who spent the entire day on Friday and assisted with formally evaluating the 9 officials.

Congratulations to the following crews:

Championship Game: D3 (Brooke Hanson, Kristen Musich, Baylee Beulke)

Third Place Game: D12 (Jason Pastika, Moe Benda, Anthony Podominick)

Consolation Game: D11 (Kevin Kangas, Daniel Van Loon, Will Groskreutz)

- **Girls 12UB & 15UB, Mike Mooney**

D5 hosted two Minnesota Hockey State Tournaments, the 12U B and 15U-B All the officials were excellent and once again no complaints.

The 12U B tournament was officiated by D5 officials. Lane Glaser, Rick Ragan, Mitchell Girard, Kendall Markovic, Jon Grabow & Russ Tiernan.

15U-B District 12 sent Tom Anick and Cody Mann. D10 sent Kent Madsen and Steve Sigstad, and from the MHOA Women's Camp Alumni Haley Ludwig and Abby Hobbs. All the officials were excellent and once again no complaints.

- **Minnesota District U18 and U16 Tournament:**

Blaine hosted 4 teams on each side, played to determine who would go to Nationals. 18 officials worked one game each. Jon Sass was used as a Supervisor. Shattuck won the tournament. There was one Match Penalty during the tournament. Level 4 officials were used with the exception of 4 level 3 officials.

Supervisors Reports

- **District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm**

325 total games for the year. We are down to 30 officials in our area, due mostly to the lack of upper level games that we can offer them. Our Jr gold games have allowed us to keep experienced older officials and get some of the few younger officials an opportunity to line or even referee in the 4 man system. Our director has requested that I work with District 8 and try and resolve the shortage we are both experiencing during various times of the season. We will be getting a new scheduler for the district next season as our current scheduler has resigned her position with our group. We did not do any evaluations this season, no volunteer's. In talking with officials this season they all expressed concerns about the online seminar's, safe sport as a very large detraction for working USA games. I also talked with some MIAC players about starting to officiate and I heard a very interesting statement" after listening to a coach scream at the officials for 4 years - why would I want to do that? The district will be attempting to recruit new officials thru the JR gold program next fall.

Dennis

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- **District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim**

District 2 hockey officiated 3202 games in 2016-17. The total is up 86 games from the 3116 officiated in 2015-16. There were far more scrimmage games this season. District 2 did not have a state tournament again this season. District 2 was overloaded for the regional weekend when we worked the Junior Gold play downs , plus the A Bantam, A Peewee, and B peewee regions. That weekend we also had district playoffs for the A Squirts, B Squirts, B2 Squirts, Girls U10 A and B.

The relationship between the official's association and District 2 continued to be smooth. A nice raise in referee fees was negotiated and passed. The scheduler's game fee was increased to match the pre-difficulties level. District 2 continued the use of the 4 man system for Junior Gold A & B levels with totally positive output from players, coaches, and parents. There were 30 new officials added to the MEHOA roster this season with 20 officials lost. It has become a huge point of emphasis to add and retain officials in all age groups and at all USA Hockey levels. The schedule is saturated with tournaments from the second week in January to mid-February. The availability of rostered officials during that time period is a major concern. More than half our officials work high school and college games. We ended the season with 135 officials on the roster.

The mentoring program is turning out a lot of very good young officials. It seems like the MEHOA takes in officials their first USA Hockey year and by the second season the officials 21 and older are working high school games. Approximately 60 officials were evaluated again this season. All of the brand new officials were evaluated. The rest of the evaluations came from all levels.

Respectfully submitted ,

Terry Thorsheim
District 2 Hockey
Supervisor of Officials

- **District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski, April 1, 2017**

Game totals:

4321 games assigned utilizing 121 registered officials.

18 less officials than 2016 – Top reason for loss of officials “abuse of officials”

Official development:

Beltline Hockey Referee Association started 12 new officials with no experience, and the 6 others joined with varying levels of experience. We currently have 13 of the 21 new officials we started last season still officiating with BHRA. The BHRA Board of Directors and evaluation staff completed 73 evaluations, mostly new officials or new to the district during the season. Again, this year a member of the evaluation staff followed up with all evaluated officials within 30 days, usually to watch a game the official was working, to answer any questions and check to make sure the official is correcting items discussed during initial evaluation. The process seemed to be very effective and productive.

The district also completed 33 on ice mentorship, which we have found to be our most successful tool to train and retain new officials.

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Game and Incident Reports:

We had a total of 121 incident reports, 5 match penalties, and 5 fan ejections.

BHRA's goal continues to get player, fan, and coach conduct under control within the district by educating the coaches during their preseason mandatory meeting. During district games the on-ice officials are required to designate each team's head coach and they are instructed that they are the only individuals that will interact with the officials in any context, very successful. I would strongly recommend other districts adopt this policy, we have found it to greatly reduce of abuse of officials from the player's bench area.

5 Match penalties – 3 for Kicking – Continues to be a big concern for the district and incidents were cut in half this season. Coaches and managers were required, by the district, to talk about the severity of Kicking penalty with their players before the season.

- **District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl**

834 games skated and 100 Officials used throughout the season.

Host of the South Region Bantam B (Fairmont) 24 district 4 officials used. Host of the South Region 12UB (Worthington) 12 and District 4 officials used.

Host of the State Bantam A/AA (Marshall). Officials participated from districts 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 15

No incidents involving officials were reported during the season.

Respectfully Submitted.

Scott Kuhl

- **District 5 Supervisor-Mike Mooney**

Assigning

District 5 assigned officials to 2373 games a total of 5240 slots. This is an increase of 85 games and 131 slots for the previous season. This number does not include post-season assignments.

Post Season

D5 hosted two Minnesota Hockey Regional Tournaments; we hosted the 12 U B at Sartell and the Pee Wee AA at Buffalo. The tournaments were well run and we had no legitimate complaints.

D5 hosted two Minnesota Hockey State Tournaments, the 12U B and the 15 U B. District 12 sent Tom Anick and Cody Mann. D10 sent Kent Madsen and Steve Sigstad, and from the MHOA Women's Camp Alumni Haley Ludwig and Abby Hobbs. All the officials were excellent and once again no complaints.

The 12U B tournament was officiated by D5 officials. Lane Glaser, Rick Ragan, Mitchell Girard, Kendall Markovic, Jon Grabow & Russ Tiernan.

Incident Reports

We had a total of 52 Game Misconduct Penalties and one Match Penalty called on D5 players this season. This is a large increase from past seasons. We average 42 Game Misconduct Penalties each season.

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Minnesota Wild Youth Hockey Referee Spotlight Program

Two D5 Officials were chosen to participate in the Minnesota Wild Youth Hockey Referee Spotlight Program on December 13.

Dominick Bouta and Courtney Smith were able to attend the Wild vs. Florida Panthers game. They had the opportunity to meet with the on ice officials prior to the game in the Officials Room at the Excel Energy Center. They were encouraged to ask questions about officiating and to get to know the four NHL officials. The NHL Officials treated our officials as if they were part of their crew; the NHL on ice officials' names are below.

Dan O'Halloran; Referee, Justin St.Pierre; Referee, Mark Wheler ; Linesman, Greg Devorski; Linesman

I would like to thank the Minnesota Wild and Minnesota Hockey for this great opportunity.

Mentoring/Evaluation

Is in flux, our program is strong but our record keeping is weak!

Officials Of The Year

The District 5 Officials of the Year attended the St. Cloud State Huskies vs. Colorado College on March 4. The NCHC Director of Officiating, Don Adam, once again allowed our officials total access to the on ice officials that evening. Our officials' of the year award recipients are as follows. Level 3 Mitchell Girard, Level 2 Cole Rahne and Level 1 Tanner Neu. It was a great evening for all involved. Don Adam has expanded this program to all of the eight NCHC cities. This program seems to be catching on in Minnesota; D10 & D11 participated in the NCHC. I would like to recognize Brian Thul for his hard work in stating this program and his leadership in expanding the program.

Level One Clinic

D5 hosted two level one first year officials clinic, on November 27th in STMA at 8:00 am and in Buffalo at 2:00 pm. We had 16 attendees at STMA and 12 attendees at Buffalo for a total of 28 new officials attending.

Power Skating

D5 hosted two power skating sessions The Herb Brooks National Hockey Center on September 15th and 20th, with JB Olson conducting the training. We had 15 attendees for the first session and 12 for the second session.

- **District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp**

Game Totals

Total district games - 4587

Scrimmages – 745

Tournaments – 1832

League – 2010

We are not suffering from lack of officials, we were close to 181 officials on the roster again this year. We hosted the BB1 Region Tournament @ Shakopee

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Bill Leslie Fund Update

- Kurt and I continue to work at getting this in order
- District 6 golf tournament – June 16th @ Stonebrooke (see flyer for details)
- Golf Passes available for 25.00 for eighteen holes including cart (on-line registration) at Stonebrooke. Contact Dave Kemp

Incident Reports

132 incident reports received thru District 6

3 reports filed against spectators (d6 parents)

Discipline committee met every two weeks, met every scheduled meeting

- **District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen:**

Due to the Ted Brill Great 8 Festival being held at the same time as our MHOA meetings, I will not be attending. It was really nice planning on Minnesota Hockey's part, the 16-17 Festival, Great 8/ HP18 Festival and a annual MN Hockey meeting. My report will be as follows.

We assigned over 4000 games this season. I have a pile of game misconducts on my desk. Thanks to Ryan Swafford, he helped me out with my officials struggling early in the season. All human errors. We handled 4 MATCH penalties. Three Kicking which I feel two could have been game misconducts instead of Match. We got handled down 1 assault on an official from Minnesota Hockey. I would like to have this brought up for discussion. Do other districts require the game officials to attend MATCH penalty hearings. District 8, has not. But that could change because of this hearing. All I had to go on with this to our board was the written report by the officials. The coaches, parents and player tore the officials report apart by saying the one officials grabbed the player by the face mask and pinned him to the ice (PWB2). After speaking to the officials, he never touched the player. The player also stated, I hit the official after I was grabbed from behind and did not know it was a referee. Again, this was denied by the officials. Future, I feel I might have to have the officials attend.

Steve's report somewhat puzzles me. Not what he stated, but what happens to funds. 379 people did not complete their certification. I think his statement of why is correct. But that leaves \$20,000 in USA Hockey's pocket. What if we asked for 50/50. That would help our association. The money by rights is Minnesota's money. That is only our state that is bringing in \$20,000 to them. Maybe they need it to pay the women hockey players.

Our Evals are close to Tatro's numbers, just to different people. Some are off 3-4 and other were given credit that didn't do the eval. Steve can relate the email chain that has went thru our District Director and our D8 board that has refused to pay for ice time for our seminars. Yes, the percentage that attend are from D8, but a lot are not and that is there question, why are we paying for officials outside our district. Our officials association has paid for last years and we budget this years also. A small amount for our guys to pay.

Getting hard trying to fill games at the end of our season people are getting burnt out and start officiating other sports. We get bombed for our District playoffs and having four Regions are just as bad.

Paul Moen

Supervisor of Officials, District 8

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- **District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford**

We scheduled 2970 games this year, utilizing 302 officials. We hosted four Regional Tournaments; PWB, PWA, BA, BAA

Sent crews to BA, 15UB and PWB State Tournaments, all reports back from the crews were positive.

There were no other further incidents to report.

Respectfully,

Ryan E. Swafford

[D9 Supervisor of Officials](#) | [MHOA South Mentor](#)

- **District 10 Supervisor-Mike Mannin**

4045 games assigned, we had 105 active members of which 35 of them worked over 100 games and a total of 77 officials worked more than 50 games!

MLK Weekend, we scheduled 415 games! Big thanks to the other districts that helped out. We had 9 guys (D-2, D-3, D-5) fill 125 slots.

Awards:

- Rookie of the year (Dimitri Mariassov) 148 games 0 declines, and 0 turnbacks.
- Official of the year (Real Fournier) 176 games 0 declines and 2 turnbacks.

We had two D-10 players get assessed match penalties (both kicking)

We had 7 reported racial incidents this season with one of them verified/heard from an official. All others were here-say with no verification.

Regionals BAA, BA, PWA, U15B, and U15B

Hosted the Tournament of champions SQ A-B, U10 B

PWAA/PWA State Tournament at Fogerty

Thanks to the crews from D-11, and D-12 working the PWAA Tournament, and crews from D-9, and D-16 working the PWA Tournament.

Respectfully,

Mike Mannin

- **District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich-2017 MHOA Spring Meeting District 11 Report**

1) Registered Officials: 2,504 games assigned (up from 2,427 games last season and 2,409 the previous season) utilizing 103 officials (up from 94 last season and 86 the previous season) and 5,504 individual slots assigned. We had to utilize 6 non local officials at various times throughout the season to assign all of our games (down from 7 the previous season and 13 the previous season).

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2) Evaluations: Approximately 9 officials formally evaluated. (Down from 15 last season and 30 previous season). Due to low numbers, veteran officials who would normally evaluate were skating games and therefore evaluations were again decreased this season. Due to the local association's financial picture, they eliminated the roughly \$1,500 that was budgeted for evaluators. Hopefully this will return for the upcoming season.

3) State Tournaments: D11 hosted the 12UA state tournament in Cloquet. I was unable to attend the Friday games and Chris Kavanaugh came down from D12 to supervise on Friday. I would also like to thank Jeremy Klobuchar who spent the entire day on Friday and assisted with formally evaluating the 9 officials.

Congratulations to the following crews:

Championship Game: D3 (Brooke Hanson, Kristen Musich, Baylee Beulke)

Third Place Game: D12 (Jason Pastika, Moe Benda, Anthony Podominick)

Consolation Game: D11 (Kevin Kangas, Daniel Van Loon, Will Groskreutz)

Congratulations to D11 officials assigned to work a state tournament:

JGB in Edina: Jon Loye, Taylor Vichorek, Jessup Pelkey

PWAA in Blaine: Kaylen Erchul, Brent Kubis, Ryan Mewha

U12A: Kevin Kangas, Daniel Van Loon, Will Groskreutz

4) National Tournament: Congratulations to D11 officials assigned to work the USA Hockey National Tournaments:

Girls Tier 1/Women's Tournament in Rochester/Macomb, Michigan: Kaylen Erchul (14U Championship Game Referee)

Boys 14U Tier II in Coral Springs, Florida: Kyle Schulze

5) Seminars: 4 total seminars. UMD and Cloquet were Level 1-2 together and L3 separate and Two Harbors was only Level 1-2 with no L3 offered. These were all hosted on Sunday's. Hermantown was a L3 only seminar on a Wednesday evening.

We trained: 65 Level 1 officials vs 60 last season
 23 level 2 officials vs 19 last season
 57 level 3 officials vs 58 last season
 Total of 145 officials vs 137 officials last season during the 4 seminars.

6) WAHA Registration: WI registration was optional this season. This posed difficulty with scheduling in Superior. This may present Superior with difficulty in finding officials in the future. We are working with them for solutions to this issue.

8) Recruitment and Retention: Our number of officials was again at a critical level this season. The majority of the problems we are facing are quite simply due to lack of officials. This offseason has seen us already begin recruiting. The following is a list of various strategies for next season: Job Fairs at local colleges, newspaper ads, local news and newspaper stories on the lack of sports officials, letters to HS senior hockey players and coaches, letters to parents of registered youth players, meetings with local association presidents and boards, personal phone calls to last year's officials to ask for feedback, personal calls/emails to last year's officials who did not complete registration, Email reminders of registration season on August 1st, moving seminar dates later in the season and offering a week night option.

9) NCHC Mentor Night: For the 3rd season in a row we brought a local official to a NCHC game and they met with the officials, supervisors, and league staff, watched the game, and sat in on the post-game supervision. It is a great night for young aspiring officials to experience officiating at a higher level. The NCHC is working to expand this program in the future. I would like to thank Duffy Dyer for accompanying Derek Boese to the game.

Nick Biondich
D11 Supervisor of Official

- **District 12 Report: Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh**

Overall, numbers of officials was up in the district with notable gains in first year officials but reduced numbers of Level 2 and 3's. It is encouraging the number of 20 somethings involved right now, the challenge will be keeping them around to eventually take over for the old dogs. Some communities still struggle with numbers, even after holding local seminars and the local associations offering generous support for registration fee reimbursement. No match penalties called in the district but two hearings held for D-12 players called when playing outside the District. One fan ejection for grabbing the arm of an official was assessed as he left the ice after a game. Local law enforcement was called for assistance. I need to follow up with the Chief of Police as I came to learn he thought his officers and the on-ice officials did not have the authority to remove a fan. The other option was to charge the parent with assault. Only one Region tournament hosted and no state tourneys, crews sent to three post-season tournaments which was about right for our numbers.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kavanaugh

D12 Supervisor

- **District 15 Supervisor-John Rice**

- **District 16 Supervisor-Ron Storey & Ron Laituri**
Officials

191 Total officials Registered

- 153 Completed
- 38 Incomplete

98 Level 1 officials (largest area of opportunity)

- 68 complete (69%)
- 30 Incomplete

58 Level 2 Officials

- 52 Complete (90%)
- 6 Incomplete

35 Level 3 Officials

- 33 Complete (94%)
- 2 Incomplete

- **Issues in 2017**

- Key issues were with one teams coaches...two head coaches given game misconducts and suspended by District...(Lake of the Wood s PWA , 2 different coaches)
- Minimal number of parent or player issues in 2017

- **Tournaments**

- District and Region tournaments went very well.

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- **WHAM**

Topline:

Women's Hockey Association of MN had another successful hockey season. The Association allocated funds to help build, support, and drive officials development. The main emphasis this season was to build the support structure and establish the requirements necessary to officiate WHAM games. We also had an emphasis to stimulate a successful Mentor Program.

Statistics:

- **Hosted an early August USA Hockey Seminar**
 - Low attendance, however, it was successful and we are hopeful for 2017-18
 - WHAM did not communicate it as broadly as we could have – because we focused on the brand new level 1's.
- **1050 Regular Season games**
- **80 Officials**
 - Over 50% of the officials were observed/evaluated during the season
 - Emphasis has been to ensure each official is rating to work the right level.
 - 0 Formal on-line Referee Reviews
 - 39% of our officials are female and they worked approx. 30% of our games.
 - 3 officials that are Incomplete status & 2 are working on completing the test.
- **57 Year End Tournament games**
 - Used 23 officials for the weekend
 - 1 location – Schwan's Super Rink
- **5 Major plus GM Penalties Assessed & 0 Match Penalty Assessed**

Building Infrastructure

WHAM Officials hired Jeff Carlen to schedule the officials. Three WHAM Officials were appointed to serve on a board to discuss the opportunities and help execute initiatives throughout the season (Paul Kill, Heidi Larkin, and Tom O'Brian). The Mentor Coordinator role was kicked off and managed by Sarma Ozman until she stepped off the ice during her pregnancy. The position is currently open. We are ironing out the roles & responsibilities for each member to help identify. We continue to use WHAM's Treasurer, Book Keeper, and other services to streamline and right size the WHAM Officials Board. Mid-season, we engaged a volunteer Secretary to assist and manage our Board (Carlye Veer). Roles will continue to be defined and evolve throughout the summer and future seasons.

Mentoring Program

WHAM Officials Association focused to re-establish the Mentor Program. We had 9 brand new level 1 officials. It was difficult to find a committed and capable Mentor Coordinator. This position is stipend. We have a volunteer that has stepped forward to lead this position for the 2017-18 season.

Recruiting

We are always looking for Officials that are passionate about working Women's Hockey. We continue to engage multiple avenues to recruit new officials for next season (1) one of the best ways to recruit is via word of mouth from officials currently skating in WHAM. (2) We are also recruiting through the Mid-West NCAA Division I and III

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Women's hockey programs. Not only are we seeking student-athletes that are graduating this season, but if there is any interest in trying to officiate while playing, we will accommodate and train through our Mentor Program.

Goals for 2016-17

Focused recruiting for new officials as well as better policy for bringing in officials that are passionate and committed to work and support women's hockey

Defining the roles and expectations for the Officiating Board, Referee Supervisor (to the league), and future evaluation program.

Plans to improve our documentation, community, and engaging more volunteers

- **Adult Hockey Association (AHA), Brent Hansen**

Brett has been with the league for 11 years in various roles including discipline committee. 5,500 Adult Players, 2,200 in Blaine and the rest are in AHA. There were 2,000 games schedule, 18 and older with 75 officials working the games within the AHA. Varying playing skills and varying level of officials, there is a need to recruit officials that can be competent for the upper level games. Developing new officials that are joining officiating out of the AHA is a priority of AHA.

Rinks: Mostly within the loop. Games are scheduled in blocks of 2 and 3 games.

- **South Vice-President: Dave Kemp**

Mid-Winter Meeting Attendees: Terry Thorsheim, Mike Mooney, Paul Moen, Ryan Swafford

- **North Vice-President: Tod Plackner**

Geographic location limits our ability to meet at this time.

- **MN District RIC: Steve Tatro**

March 23, 2017 Annual Report 2016-2017

Minnesota District, Officiating Program

Registration: 2349 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 1970 completed the registration process. The completion rate increased from 83% last year to 84% this season. The marginal completion rate, mostly level 1 officials, can be attributed to on-line requirements (Safe sport, On-line seminar modules, and Open Book Exam). Minnesota was better than the national average by 7% and this issue is being addressed at a national level. Overall registrants are down 1.2% percent from last season (28 officials). Nationally the registration rate was up by 4.1%. We are still experiencing shortages in out-state areas.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 76 with 2134 attendees. The number is lower than last year because many experienced MN officials got seminar credit from a District Officiating Seminar or ODP Junior Camps. 215 officials did not attend a seminar despite holding a late season seminar in December to try and capture those officials. Multiple e-mail notifications were sent out, but only 20 attended.

Evaluations: From the new web based reporting, about 14% (283) of our completed officials were formally evaluated this season. This is an increase from last season. A total of 383 evaluations were performed.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program remains a great teaching tool. This program puts a seasoned official on the ice to guide new officials, not to call the game for them but to instruct them in positioning and in some cases, advise them of the penalty situations. At the end of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve.

Physical Assaults: There were no “Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials” this year. This issue seems to be cyclical in nature from season to season, never exceeding a high of five.

Injured Officials: We had 2 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. These claims were not of a serious nature. This is down from a total of 4 last season.

Game Reporting: The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its third year. Most issues with the system were user generated and quickly resolved. The game reporting system sends alerts to administrators when a player has reached the threshold for 411 rule of aggressive infractions. Ryan Swafford of district 9 is the Minnesota administrator and continues to do a fantastic job.

International-College Tournaments: Minnesota officials are well represented in International competition. To date we have 12 officials licensed to work International competition. We are also well represented at the Men and Women’s D1 and D3 Collegiate levels with play-off assignments to be announced.

National Tournaments: This year we will have 18 officials from Minnesota working National Tournaments. This is 2 fewer than last year. I was assigned to supervise the Boy’s Tier 2 Tournament in Lansing, MI.

Development Camps: Two officials will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. The Men’s Futures camp will have 8 officials attending. There is 3 officials for the Men's High Performance Camp and 5 officials for the Women’s Futures Camp. During the NIT HS tournament, MHOA will again offer a development experience to 5 officials. Game supervision and personalized development programs will be given to these officials. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. This is the 26th year of this camp. To date are 7 applicants for the 12 slots available. This camp is the most popular development program and continues to be the “Gold Standard” for officials to reach the next level of their officiating career. I want to thank MN Hockey for the resources it provides. The MHOA Women’s camp will be held again with Mike Mooney of district 5 coordinating the logistics. It will be held in conjunction with the MN HP15 Girl’s festival in St Cloud. Also, all of our female officials are encouraged to work games during the Girl’s U18 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 15-21). They will have the opportunity to work high level hockey and be supervised during each game. There continues to be an abundance of opportunities for officials to develop and deepen the Minnesota officiating talent pool.

Officiating Development Program: The nineteenth season of the Junior Officiating Development Program under the leadership of Scott Zelkin gets stronger every year. This program continues to oversee officiating assignments in the USHL and works closely with Mark Faucette (SPHL) and Chris Allman (NAHL) in coordinating development and identification of prospect officials at the Junior, Collegiate, and Minor pro levels of play. Minnesota currently has 40 officials working in this program. Our relationship remains strong and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials. 45 Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at NAPHL showcase events around the country. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit for the grass root official who serves as the foundation of our officiating ranks.

Education and Project RODEO: Project RODEO (Rebuilding Officiating Development Education Opportunities) continues to evolve. More on-line courses have been added and a committee to look at streamlining the registration process has been established.

Screening: This past fall every Minnesota official registered with USA Hockey (Complete or Incomplete) who was 18 or older prior to Jan 1, 2017 was screened through MN Hockey. Next year, I would like to take this a step further and be able to import that data into USA Hockey's national database as some of the other affiliates currently do.

Summary: Minnesota officiating remains stable and strong and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to increase our registration completion rate. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2017-2018 season.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief

- **President's Report: Eric Olson**

MN Wild Spotlight Program: This will continue in the future and supervisors are encouraged to contact Dave Kemp with members who would benefit from this event.

MN Wild Seminar is a great opportunity to promote officiating throughout the state! Mark V. will be working with Dennis Alm, Mike Mannin and others to promote this seminar for our new officials.

MHOA Camp : Session 1 and Session 2 How do we market these? Can we fill both of these camps?

HP Advance Games: 3,5,6,10 These are the districts that are scheduling the games. Kurt Hyster is working with MN Hockey for payment. There will be a \$6.00 scheduling fee added on to the bill and Kurt will be compensated \$.50 of that fee.

NAPL Games: There are many games available for these tournaments and USA Hockey is alright with MHOA Assigning the games. Mike Mannin will work with the NAPL to finalize a proposal for the MHOA Board.

MHOA Camp: How do we increase the instructor pool for the MHOA Camps? Who are we missing from the instructor list? Supervisors should refer any interested and qualified members to Mike Mannin, Mike Mooney or Dave Weisjahn.

New Business:

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- **MH HP 14/15 Pre-Season Games:** Will be paid by Kurt Hyster with one check whenever possible. Officials working these games will be paid directly from Kurt.
- **Fall Meeting Date: Sept. 23rd.**
- State tournament payment guidelines. Board discussed and gave input on the document and this will be voted on during the fall meeting.

Chris Kavanaugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Terry Thorsheim seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04PM.

Once approved these minutes become part of the official record for the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Thul

Brian Thul
MHOA Secretary

Elections of officers:

Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward Tod Plackner for North Vice-President. Skip Trumble asked for other nominations three times. No other nominations from the floor.

Tod Plackner was elected as the new MHOA North Vice President on a white ballot.

Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward Mike Mannin for President. Skip Trumble asked for other nominations three times. No other nominations from the floor.

Mike Mannin was elected as the new MHOA President on a white ballot.